

spiracles are very close to the eyes; white spots are confined only to the posterior region of the body below the spiracles; there are four black bands, a semi-circular one above the eyes and three others between the eyes and spiracles.

The morpho-metric characters of the specimen are as follows:—

Total length	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54.5	cm.
Maximum width	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.8	„
Height of caudal peduncle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.5	„
Snout to first dorsal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.0	„
Snout to second dorsal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34.2	„
Snout to caudal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44.5	„
Snout to ventral	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44.5	„
Snout to hectoral	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.2	„
Length of first dorsal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.7	„
Length of second dorsal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.8	„
Length of ventral	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.0	„
Length of pectoral	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.0	„
Diameter of eye	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.9	„
Diameter of spiracle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.3	„
Diameter of nostril	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.0	„
Distance between the eyes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.6	„
Distance between the nostrils	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.5	„

The gut contents of the specimen consisted of appendages of *Squilla* sp., crabs and semi-digested organic matter.

The specimen is preserved in the Ichthyological Museum of the Marine Biological Station, Portonovo.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to Professor R. V. Seshaiya, Director, Marine Biological Station, Portonovo, S. India for his guidance and help, and to the Officer-in-charge, Zoological Survey of India, Patna-4 for laboratory and library facilities.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
PATNA 16.

T. VENKATESWARLU

March 19, 1966.

#### 9. REMARKS ON THE BAND PATTERN OF THE SOLE *ZEBRIAS SYNAPTUROIDES* (JENKINS)

(With a plate)

During a survey tour to the Kerala coast in 1964-65, I collected three specimens of *Z. synapturoides*, measuring 100.0-140.0 mm. in total length, at Cochin, off Vypeen Island at a depth of 16-20 metres on January 19, 1965. They differ from the typical *Z. synapturoides* in

the head markings. The typical *Z. synapturoides* is characterised by nine dark transverse unbranched bands on the trunk and seven or eight bands on the head (Plate, fig. 1). My specimens show twelve dark transverse bands on the body, distributed three on the head, and nine on the trunk. Moreover among the bands on the head, the second and the third show a bifurcation giving the appearance of four bands (Plate, fig. 2). Except for the body markings they agree well in all respects with the typical *Z. synapturoides*. Examination of a larger number of specimens is required to establish races or subspecies within the species *synapturoides*.

I am thankful to Dr. A. G. K. Menon for going through the manuscript and to Shri P. K. Eapen, Deputy Director, Offshore Fishing Station, Cochin for allowing me to collect the specimens from the "Flying Fish" trawl catch.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
CALCUTTA-16.

K. V. RAMA RAO

December 7, 1966.

#### 10. A RE-DESCRIPTION OF THE ANCHOVY *ENGRAULIS* *RAMBHAE* CHAUDHURI

Chaudhuri (1916) recorded three new species of *Thryssa* Cuvier 1829 from the Chilka lake in Orissa. He described them as of the genus *Engraulis* Cuvier. The latter name as applied to the warm water Indo-West-Pacific anchovies is incorrect, *Engraulis* being an Atlantic-Pacific genus in the New World genera of Engraulidae. Apart from other distinguishing characters (Berry 1964, Whitehead 1962), *Engraulis* lacks abdominal scutes which occur in all warm water Indo-West-Pacific engraulids, except one species of *Stolephorus*, *St. celebica* Hardenberg. Whitehead (1965) has shown that the valid generic name is *Thryssa* Cuvier 1829, and that *Thrissocles* J. & E. is the junior objective synonym, for the warm water Indo-West-Pacific anchovies.

Chaudhuri's description of the three species is based mostly on external characters and body proportions; he paid little attention to meristic characters, and totally ignored the number of gill rakers and vertebrae.

In the course of a revision of the genus, I have observed that whereas the body *profiles* are rather distinctive in most species, there is considerable overlap in many body proportions (on which earlier workers laid so much stress) of the various species, and so are of limited value in systematics. In many fishes, body proportions tend to change with age; these changes should be taken into account in systematic studies. When giving body proportions, it is also advisable to state the length range of the specimens in which the measurements were made. In *Thryssa* spp. the